SUNDAY MORNING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: God Is Working

Passage: Habakkuk 1:5-11

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: Have you ever had a question you were almost afraid to ask? Sometimes the questions we carry go deeper than we want anybody to know. In Habakkuk, we find a prophet wrestling with the same questions. Judah was filled with violence, corruption, and idolatry. God's people had turned their backs on Him, innocent people were suffering, and wickedness seemed to be winning. Habakkuk couldn't understand why God wasn't doing something about it. Maybe you've been there. You wanted God to see, to care, and to act. But in our passage, we discover an important truth that Habakkuk needed to understand, and so do we.

I. God is Working Even When We Can't See it (Verse 5a)

Sometimes we spend so much time looking at what's wrong that we forget to look at the One who is still in control.

Habakkuk had been crying out to God because he cared about what was happening to his people. He had begun to wonder whether God cared as much as he did. But we cannot measure how much God cares by how quickly He changes our circumstances.

Just because nothing is changing where you can see it doesn't mean nothing is happening where you can't. Faith isn't believing that God will always do what I want Him to do.

Faith is trusting that God is at work even when I don't understand what He's doing.

II. God is Working Even When We Don't Believe it (Verse 5b)

Habakkuk wanted an answer from God, but God knew he would struggle with that answer. How often are we guilty of the same thing? We want God to work, but we want Him to work according to our expectations.

Sometimes our problem isn't that God hasn't answered. It's that we don't like the answer He's given. But since when did trusting God mean that God had to do everything our way?

> "*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5*

Faith isn't trusting God because His plan makes sense to me. Faith is trusting God because I know His character. God's work is not limited by my ability to understand it or even my willingness to believe it.

III. God is Working Even When We Don't Understand it (Verses 6-11)

Just because I don't understand God's plan doesn't mean God doesn't have a plan.

> *"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:" Acts 2:23*

What looked like the greatest defeat in history became the greatest victory in history.

> *"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of*

sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you." Acts 13:38–41

Paul is telling these people that forgiveness is available through Jesus Christ! But then he's warning them not to reject the salvation God has provided through Him.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11–15

God allowed wicked men to crucify His innocent Son, and through that very act, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" 1 Peter 3:18

When I look at the cross, I see a God who loved me enough to give His own Son for me. The cross reminds us that God can accomplish His greatest purposes through circumstances

we would never have chosen and could never have understood.

Conclusion: There are still things in life I can't explain, things I don't understand, and times when I find myself asking God, “Why?” But I've learned something important about God. I don't have to understand everything God is doing to trust the God who is doing it. Maybe you're here today and you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. You may have questions and doubts, but you can know that Jesus Christ died for your sins, rose again, and offers you forgiveness and eternal life. If you've never trusted Christ as your Savior, don't put it off. Judgment day is coming, and today is the day to get things settled with God.